

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 6, and 10, have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated August 16, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a) as being anticipated by Mayumi, JP 2001-110175 (hereinafter Mayumi). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended recites:

An optical disk drive comprising:
a turntable for mounting and rotating an optical disk;
a housing having a ceiling plate above the turntable;
a plate member disposed between an upper surface of the turntable and the housing above the turntable and extending along a direction crossing disk tracks, the plate member creating spaces for guiding air flow generated between the upper disk surface and a lower surface of the ceiling plate of the housing during rotation of the optical disk, respectively in between the disk upper surface and a lower surface of the plate member and in between an upper surface of the plate member and the housing; and
a repetitive structure formed on edge portions of the plate member and extending along the direction crossing the disk tracks, the repetitive structure creating space having a high resistance to air flow and space having a low resistance to air flow, and rectifying the air flow generated during disk rotation above the upper disk surface to suppress turbulence and enhance laminar flow.

The Mayumi reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the optical disk drive specified in independent claim 1, as amended. Unlike the optical disk drive specified in claim 1, as amended, Mayumi does not teach “*a repetitive structure formed on edge portions of the plate member and extending along the direction crossing the disk tracks, the repetitive structure creating space having a high resistance to air flow and space having a low resistance to air flow, and rectifying the air flow generated during disk rotation above the upper disk surface to suppress turbulence and enhance laminar flow.*”

Mayumi is directed to an optical disk drive to reduce whistling noise during operation.

Mayumi discloses an optical disk drive including a mechanical section 6 and a housing 1 comprised of a bottom housing 1B and a ceiling plate 1A. (*Mayumi, paragraph 0013*) The mechanical section 6 includes a hub 8 and a turntable 9 for rotating an optical disk 20. Recesses 22 are formed in the lower surface of the ceiling plate 1B or in a sound absorbing sheet 26 which is attached. (*Mayumi, paragraph 0016*) The optical disk 20 is rotated clockwise as indicated by arrow 27. The air above the optical disk is also rotated clockwise due to its viscosity, and outwardly due to centrifugal force. The recesses are formed in an arc shape, preferably along the opposite direction (i.e., counterclockwise direction) so that the air flow is disturbed and the air layer on the disk 20 is smoothly peeled off (*Mayumi, paragraph 0015*) However Mayumi does not disclose ***“a repetitive structure formed on edge portions of the plate member and extending along the direction crossing the disk tracks, the repetitive structure creating space having a high resistance to air flow and space having a low resistance to air flow, and rectifying the air flow generated during disk rotation above the upper disk surface to suppress turbulence and enhance laminar flow.”*** Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over the Mayumi reference.

Independent claim 10, as amended recites limitations similar to those in independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 10, as amended distinguishes over the Mayumi reference for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 2-9 depend from independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-9 distinguish over the Mayumi reference for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Independent claim 11 recites:

An optical disk drive comprising:

a plurality of convex stripes formed on inner surfaces of side walls of a structural member defining a space for accommodating an optical disk, the convex stripes extending along a horizontal direction, protruding into the space and rectifying an air flow generated during disk rotation.

The Mayumi reference does not disclose teach, or suggest the optical disk drive specified in independent claim 11. Unlike the optical disk drive specified in claim 11, Mayumi does not disclose “***a plurality of convex stripes formed on inner surfaces of side walls of a structural member defining a space for accommodating an optical disk,*** the convex stripes extending along a horizontal direction, protruding into the space and rectifying an air flow generated during disk rotation.” In particular, the optical disk drive recited in claim 11 is distinct from the disclosure of Mayumi because Mayumi discloses that the recesses 22 are formed only in the lower surface of the ceiling plate 1B or in a sound absorbing sheet 26 which is attached to the ceiling plate. The side walls of the drawer 2 are completely void of recesses. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 11 distinguishes over the Mayumi reference.

Independent claim 12 recites limitation similar to those in independent claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 12 distinguishes over the Mayumi reference for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 11.


Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the

Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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